



Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, May 3rd, 2019

Volume 30, Number 4

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Tom Piper

There are several public meetings coming up this month, including the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program – See *MPO and RPO Updates*. Two trillion dollars for infrastructure? Check out *Legislative Updates* for the details. A new Airport terminal has opened in Mobile and there is an update on passenger rail – see *In the News*. Why did the chicken cross the road? - Check out *Just for Fun* to find out!

Have a great weekend! **Check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!**



www.mobilempo.org

Check us out on FACEBOOK

SARPC Transportation Video, this is what we do [HERE](#)

Want to know what other SARPC departments do?

[Planning and Community Development](#)

[Area Agency on Aging](#)

[Employment and Economic Development](#)

Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison, PTP

Mobile MPO Updates

Mobile MPO meetings

There was a Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committee (TCC/CAC) meeting on April 24th. The results and recommendations of this week's TCC/CAC meeting will go before the Mobile MPO on **May 8th**. The agenda items include a draft 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and some minor edits to the Public Participation Plan (PPP). There are also numerous projects modified in the current 2016-2019 TIP. Finally, there will be a discussion concerning the 2045 Long Range transportation Plan (LRTP).

Also discussed at the meeting, President Trump signed into law the Appropriations Act of 2019 which allocated \$10,097,088 of federal funds to the State of Alabama for MPO projects. That translates to almost \$2 million for the Mobile MPO (\$1,944,435). The TCC/CAC deliberated at the April 24th meeting on how to treat this Special Allocation. It could be used for any variety of STP type projects. It was discussed the \$2 million Special Allocation could be used for a beautification type award, through a competitive type process, OR be placed into the regular STP Attributable funding for future deficits. The TCC/CAC voted to recommend to the MPO to use the \$2 million (fed) for future deficits of the existing projects.

Please see our web page for further details www.mobilempo.org

FREIGHT DATA

APM Terminals has provided us with their third quarterly survey report. Just as last quarter, for one day APM Terminals had on-board tablets for drivers to answer a series of questions in terms of where they came from and where they are going. APM Terminals will continue to gather this information quarterly for our benefit of validating truck data for the travel demand forecasting model. This third survey report had 88% of trucker visits answering the survey, the best percentage yet, which helps refine our understanding of container truck trip patterns in the area.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) NOW ONLINE

The TIP represents a four year program (2016-2019) for improvements in the various transportation systems located within the Mobile study area as identified in the Mobile MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the twenty-five year plan for the Mobile Urban area [Destination 2040](#). The LRTP establishes the transportation programs that are needed to meet travel demand by the study year and study area. LRTP projects that become funded are moved into the TIP and submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), where they are programmed into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). For MPO projects, TIP project selection is based on priorities established by MPO member governments and the availability of funds through the Surface Transportation Attributable program. For other projects, ALDOT has discretion of project funding

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based on availability of funds from various types of funding categories. Most often, projects in the TIP are derived from the LRTP. The TIP guides ALDOT in its annual allocation of funds for transportation improvements and becomes a part of the STIP.

ArcGIS Online is now being utilized by MPO staff to map all federally funded surface transportation projects within our area. Check it out.

2016-2019 E-TIP [HERE](#)

Stay Up To Date on the Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project:

<http://mobileriverbridge.com/>



About the project:

The Mobile River Bridge and Bayway project will reduce congestion on I-10 in South Alabama through the addition of additional capacity: a new six-lane bridge over the Mobile River, full replacement of the existing Bayway with an eight-lane structure, and redevelopment of seven interchanges. The project runs from Virginia Street in Mobile to the US 90/98 interchange in Baldwin County. Information in the project is available at www.MobileRiverBridge.com. Please contact Allison Gregg (251-604-9790) to coordinate site visits.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Hearing regarding the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Project No. DPI-0030(005), I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway, Mobile and Baldwin Counties, Alabama.

The purpose and need of this proposed project is to increase the capacity of I-10 to meet existing and projected future traffic volumes and to provide a more direct route for vehicles transporting hazardous materials, while minimizing impacts to Mobile's maritime industry.

You are invited to attend and participate in either of the following public meetings:

Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 4:30-8 p.m., Spanish Fort Community Center

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 4:30 – 8 p.m., Mobile Civic Center

ALDOT will present the same information at both meetings. The meeting format will be an open house from 4:30-8 p.m. The public may review project information, exhibits, and the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement. ALDOT's presentation is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to provide comments during the formal public forum portion of the open house must register at the sign-in table. Each speaker will have a two-minute limit. Verbal comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record, along with written comments received. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting.

Free parking will be available at each meeting.

Comment forms will be provided. These may be filled out and returned at the meeting, submitted online at www.mobileriverbridge.com, e-mailed to mrbenvironmental@dot.state.al.us, faxed to (251) 473-3624, or mailed by 5 p.m. on May 23, 2019. The mailing address is:

ALDOT – Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project
ATTN: Matt Ericksen, P.E.
1701 I-65 West Service Road N
Mobile, AL 36618

For additional information, visit www.mobileriverbridge.com. For individuals requiring special assistance, please call Allison Gregg at (251) 604-9790. Special assistance should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting.

Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

The target start date, plan status, or project engineers estimated amount has changed for the following:

Project : 100040584 (CN)

Federal aid number : NH 0042 (509)
County : MOBILE
Project Description : US-98 EASTBOUND LANES FROM MISSISSIPPI LINE TO 0.5 MILE EAST OF GLENWOOD ROAD. BASE AND PAVE
Old Target start date : January 28, 2022
New Target start date : September 24, 2021

Project : 100033461 (CN)
Federal aid number : NH I010
County : MOBILE
Project Description : ADD LANES I-10 FR CR-39 TO CR-59 (CAROL PLANTATION RD)
Old Target start date : November 06, 2026
New Target start date : September 29, 2023

Project : 100064147 (PE)
Federal aid number : NH I010
County : MOBILE
Project Description : ADD LANES I-10 FR CR-39 TO CR-59 (CAROL PLANTATION RD)
Old Target start date : November 01, 2024
New Target start date : September 01, 2022

Projects in Region Let April 26th, 2019

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

None at this time

MOBILE COUNTY

For constructing the Bridge Replacement and Approaches on Dunlap Drive over Pinto Pass in Mobile. Length 0.085 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$881,999 to \$1,077,999.

BALDWIN COUNTY

For the Maintenance Dredging of Little Lagoon Pass in Gulf Shores as indicated in the plans. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$652,093 to \$797,003.

[What's Under Construction? Project Status](#)

RPO Updates

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DRAFT STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - STIP

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold public meetings to gather input regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The meetings are scheduled for:

Wednesday, May 15th, 2019
GM&O Building
110 Beauregard Street
Mobile, AL 36602
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019
Atmore City Hall
201 East Louisville Ave.
Atmore, AL 36502
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019
Baldwin County Central Annex
22251 Palmer Street
Robertsdale, AL 36567
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

The ALDOT is seeking public comment on the proposed STIP, which includes a listing of specific transportation projects that will be funded during the next four years.

The meeting will be held in an open house format. Displays and information, along with a short presentation, will be included to explain the requirements to have a STIP. ALDOT staff will be available to discuss planning efforts and answer questions.

Physically challenged persons who need special accommodations should contact the Transportation Planning Coordinator at SARPC, (251) 433-6541, email: transportation@sarpc.org, to request special assistance. Please make this request at least one week prior to the meeting and specify the type of assistance needed.

The DRAFT STIP 2020-20123 will be available for review at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Offices, located at the GM&O Building at 110 Beauregard Street, Suite 207 Mobile, AL 36602.

Comments will be accepted until June 30, 2019 and should be forwarded to:

State Office Engineer
Alabama Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 3050
Montgomery, AL 36130-3050

OR:

Submit your comments electronically by going to ALDOT's web page: www.dot.state.al.us
Click on: DRAFT 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Legislative Updates

Dems, Trump pull \$2T surprise on infrastructure

BY [JORDAN FABIAN](#) AND [SCOTT WONG](#) - 04/30/19 05:52 PM EDT

Democratic leaders and [President Trump](#) pulled a surprise on Tuesday, by reaching a deal to pursue a \$2 trillion infrastructure package despite rising tensions over congressional probes into the White House that have sparked a debate over impeachment.

The optimism voiced by Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader [Charles Schumer](#) (D-N.Y.) after what they described as a “constructive” White House meeting with Trump was greeted with heavy skepticism from lawmakers.

They noted that GOP lawmakers were not even invited to the meeting, and that there was no agreement on how to pay for the costly plan.

But for a day, at least, the emphasis from Pelosi and Schumer was on what was possible with the White House, and the Speaker said both sides had decided an infrastructure deal should “be big and bold.”

Schumer said Tuesday’s meeting stood in contrast to those held before the government shutdown earlier this year, when Trump and the Democratic leaders were seen on camera bickering in the White House.

“There was goodwill in this meeting, and that was different than some of the other meetings that we’ve had, which is a very good thing,” Schumer told reporters after a 90-minute huddle with Trump and his advisers.

Congressional Republicans say they are unlikely to support a \$2 trillion infrastructure package, something that could doom its chances in the GOP-controlled Senate.

“How this could be achieved in a fiscally responsible way remains the biggest question,” Rep. [Mark Meadows](#) (R-N.C.), chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus and a close Trump ally, told The Hill. “Traditional methods for this increased investment would meet substantial pushback.”

“The devil is always in the details,” added Rep. [Mario Diaz-Balart](#) (R-Fla.), the top Republican on the Appropriations subcommittee overseeing transportation spending. To read the full article, click [HERE](#).

Trump's pursuit of infrastructure deal hits GOP roadblock

BY [ALEXANDER BOLTON](#), [JULIEGRACE BRUFKE](#) AND [SCOTT WONG](#) - 05/03/19

[President Trump](#) faces stiff opposition from Republicans in his desire for a massive infrastructure package.

GOP lawmakers say the president’s grand proposal for a \$2 trillion deal is too ambitious and warn that they will oppose any measure that adds to the deficit.

Many Republicans also say they are against raising taxes to pay for an infrastructure initiative, a stance that would make it extremely difficult to find money to finance a package even half the size of Trump’s desired amount.

Congressional Republicans say they are worried about passing a reprise of former President Obama’s 2009 fiscal stimulus, which was devoted to “shovel ready” infrastructure projects and “green” energy production.

That legislation added more than \$800 billion to the debt and later became a focal point of GOP charges that Obama had blown up the deficit.

“If we’re going to do infrastructure, I think we ought to pay for it. I don’t think we ought to put it on the debt,” said Senate Republican Whip [John Thune](#) (S.D.), the No. 2 Senate GOP leader.

But he also noted “there’s never been much appetite on either side up here, Democrat or Republican, for” raising the gas tax, a key revenue raiser for highway projects.

“I think \$2 trillion is really ambitious. If you do a 35-cent increase in the gas tax, for example, indexed for inflation, it gets you only half a trillion [dollars],” Thune said.

House Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-Calif.) also sounded skeptical.

“How do you pay for it? That’s the biggest question — that’s the hardest part,” he told The Hill. To read the full article, click [HERE](#).

April 30, 2019

Chair DeFazio Statement on White House Infrastructure Meeting

Washington, DC- Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) released this statement following his meeting with President Trump and Congressional leaders at the White House:

“Today’s meeting with the White House was a big step in the right direction in our work to develop a robust, bipartisan plan for infrastructure investment,” said **Chair DeFazio**. “Two trillion dollars is a significant federal investment that could make a real difference in communities across this country, whether we’re talking roads, bridges, and transit systems, or harbors, airports and wastewater systems, just to name a few areas that would get a real boost from a bipartisan deal. I’m encouraged to hear the widespread agreement on the need to act on infrastructure—and to act soon—and I look forward to continuing this critical conversation with the White House and House and Senate leadership in the coming weeks.”

April 30, 2019

Chairs DeFazio, Napolitano, Ranking Members Graves, Westerman, Rep. Kelly Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Invest in Nation’s Ports and Harbors

Washington, D.C. – Today, Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Committee Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO), Chair of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), Subcommittee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA) introduced H.R. 2396 the Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Act, which would unlock billions in already collected fees to maintain our nation’s Federal ports and harbors.

Currently, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (Trust Fund) collects more revenue from shippers than Congress has appropriated to the U.S. Army Corps (Corps) of Engineers to maintain our harbors. Approximately **\$9.3 billion in already collected revenue sits idle in the U.S. Treasury, not being used for its intended purpose of investing in our Nation’s ports and harbors. At the same time, some ports and harbors of all sizes struggle to remain competitive in the global shipment of goods and services or remain open to meet the needs of the communities that depend on a vibrant maritime and commercial fishing industry.** While shippers continue to pay into the Trust Fund for Congressionally approved maintenance activities, the Federal Government has not carried out many of them.

This **bipartisan bill** makes it easier for Congress to appropriate any funds collected in the Trust Fund for authorized harbor maintenance needs, including the existing \$9.3 billion balance in the Trust Fund. The legislation enables the expenditure of approximately \$34 billion over the next decade, which will allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to dredge **all** Federal harbors to their constructed widths and depths. To read the full press release click [HERE](#).

Trump ally in House calls for doubling gas tax to pay for infrastructure

BY [SCOTT WONG](#) - 05/01/19 01:14 PM EDT

A Trump ally on Capitol Hill is calling for the doubling of the federal gas tax and airline fees in order to pay for the \$2 trillion infrastructure package being negotiated by [President Trump](#) and Democratic leaders.

Rep. [Chris Collins](#) (R-N.Y.) is urging Congress to double the 18.4-cents-per-gallon gasoline tax, which has not been raised in more than a quarter century. He also wants to double the existing fee that airline passengers pay per flight.

“I not only support increasing the gas tax; I support doubling it. I support doubling the airline passenger fee from \$4.50 to \$8 or \$9. Those are user fees. I won’t even call it a tax,” Collins told The Hill in an interview after Trump and Democratic leaders agreed Tuesday to try to fund a \$2 trillion bill to improve the nation’s crumbling roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

“If you don’t want to pay the airline user fee, don’t fly. And if you don’t want to pay the gas fee, you don’t have to drive,” added Collins, who also believes that a third of the infrastructure package could be completed through public-private partnerships. “We need real pay-fors. ... This is a direct, real pay-for.”

It’s rare to hear a Republican openly call for raising taxes, let alone doubling them. So it’s not a surprise that Collins is mostly alone among GOP members, who have held up the 2017 tax reform law as one of the key legislative triumphs of the Trump era.

House Minority Leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) (R-Calif.) opposes any effort to raise the federal gas tax and helped lead a campaign last cycle to repeal a gas-tax increase in the Golden State.

Other House Republicans argue that boosting the gas tax would be regressive, putting a greater burden on lower-income Americans who can't afford it, and would only serve as a short-term fix as more drivers shift to vehicles that run on little or no gas.

"I don't think that is the way forward," said Rep. [Mario Diaz-Balart](#) (Fla.), a top Republican voice on transportation issues. "The Highway Trust Fund is deficient because of a change in technology. We have more efficient automobiles, electric automobiles, we have hybrids — that's not going to change.

"So doing a gas-tax increase doesn't, long-term, solve the problem and is highly regressive. It is the way out, but it's not acceptable."

Still, Collins, who was the first member of Congress to endorse then-candidate Trump during the 2016 GOP primary, may have an ally in the president when it comes to the gas tax. To read the full article, click [HERE](#).

Funding Opportunities

BUILD GRANT deadline (July 15th, 2019)

Department of Transportation BUILD Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has announced that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available for its competitive grant program known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD, formerly known as TIGER). A total of \$900 million was appropriated for this program in FY 2019. The application is currently available online at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>. The application deadline is **July 15, 2019**. A series of webinars to provide information and answer applicants' questions has also been announced:

- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – All Applicants
 - Tuesday, April 30th, 3:00-5:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – Tribal and Rural Applicants
 - Thursday, May 2nd 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for a BUILD Application –All Applicants
 - Tuesday, May 7th 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – All Applicants
 - Thursday, May 9th, 2:00-4:00 EDT -- [register here](#)
- Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for a BUILD Application – All Applicants
 - Tuesday, May 14th 3:00-5:00 EDT -- [register here](#)

Innovations in Transit Public Safety Deadline May 28, 2019

Agency Name: DOT/Federal Transit Administration

Description: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the availability of \$2 million in funding provided under the Public Transportation Innovation Program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. § 5312, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST), Public Law 114-94 (December 4, 2015). This is a national solicitation for project proposals and includes the selection criteria and program eligibility information for Fiscal Year 2019 projects. The primary purpose of these competitively selected grants is to identify innovative solutions to reduce or eliminate human trafficking occurring on transit systems, protect transit operators from the risk of assault, and reduce crime on public transit vehicles and facilities.

Link to Additional Information: [FTA Notices of Funding Opportunity](#)

Grantor Contact Information: If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Dakisha Spratling
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
(202) 366-2530

[Section 5307, 5310, and 5311: Using Non-DOT Funds for Local Match](#)

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) has worked with the [National Aging and Disability Transportation Center](#) to clarify the ability of grantees to use Older Americans Act Title IIIB Supportive Services Funds to match Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs. These FTA programs include Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Section 5307), Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities (Section 5310), and Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311). This information has been publicized [HERE](#)

FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

New funding is available from the Federal Highway Administration's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program to encourage the transportation community to adopt proven innovations. [Funding](#) or the AID Demonstration program, launched in 2014 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was continued by the 2015 [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act](#). Since AID Demonstration was introduced, FHWA has provided more than \$43 million for 61 awards.

Under the program, funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects that use proven innovations in any project phase, including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through Grants.gov, the federal government's website for information on funding opportunities. For more information on the AID Demonstration program, contact [Ewa Flom](#) of the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation.

The FHWA continues the Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within the Technology and Innovation Deployment Program (TIDP) under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The AID Demonstration provides incentive funding for any project activities eligible for assistance under title 23, U.S.C. in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment, and construction that address the TIDP goals. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published on September 1, 2016 (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-21063>) requests grant applications and provides selection criteria, application requirements, and technical assistance with Grants.gov during the grant solicitation period.

Link to Additional Information: [FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation Grants page](#)

Industrial Access Road and Bridge

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) and the project sponsor (city or county) must maintain the completed facility unless the facility consists of turn lanes, crossovers, etc., that are located on state highways. Industrial access funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs.

Prior to the date the qualifying (new or expanding) project is "placed in service," the sponsoring entity or its local development agency must notify the Alabama Department of Commerce of its intent to claim the incentives under Section 41-9-202.1, Code of Alabama 1975. Effective October 9, 2008, the Industrial Access Road and Bridge Corporation application submittal should include the notification acknowledgment letter from the Secretary of Commerce. For more info, see [HERE](#)

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available visit www.grants.gov.

Just For Fun

In case you have not heard, there will be no call for TAP projects this year, from either the State or the Mobile MPO. Although, there is certainly a lot of sidewalk construction going on in the Region. In honor of all the sidewalk construction currently being done throughout the Region, here is a reminder that it is tough work. Why did the chicken want to cross the road anyway? Video [HERE](#) of a chicken destroying a sidewalk, probably funded with TAP Funds...



Why did the chicken want to cross the road anyway? *Just For Fun....* let's find out. Did you know that "Why did the Chicken cross the road?" is a riddle from 1847, that first appeared in a New York Magazine called the Knickerbocker:

"There are 'quips and quilllets' which seem actual conundrums, but yet are none. Of such is this: 'Why does a chicken cross the street?['] Are you 'out of town?' Do you 'give it up?' Well, then: 'Because it wants to get on the other side!'" [It's true!](#)

In the News

Two 5K Runs Saturday Impact Downtown Mobile Streets

A couple of 5K runs this Saturday will close some downtown streets for a few hours. Put on your running shoes and support these two important organizations, or just come down and enjoy the spectacle!

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a non-profit that helps young girls between the 3rd and 8th grades achieve their full potential. Running is used to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness, and build confidence through accomplishment.

Route:

The run will start at 11:00 a.m. on Royal St. at Church St. and travel north on Royal St. to St. Francis St.; west on St. Francis St. Lawrence St.; south on Lawrence St. to Dauphin St.; east on Dauphin St. back to Royal St.; south on Royal St. to Church St.; west on Church St. to Washington Ave.; south on Washington Ave. to Canal St. The runners will conduct a U-Turn around a traffic cone and travel north on Washington Ave. to Church St.; east on Church St. to the finish line at Royal St. and disband.

Lion's Club 5K Run

Between 7:00 and 11:00 a.m., the Traffic Safety Unit will be assisting with the Lions Club 5K Run.

Route:

The run will start at 8:00 a.m. on Government St. at Washington Ave. and will travel east on Government St. through the Bank Head Tunnel to USS Battleship Parkway; east on USS Battleship Parkway to Café Del Rio Restaurant's parking lot just west of Exit 30 and disband.

SARPC to conduct Public Meetings for the STIP

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) lists transportation projects programmed over a four year period. A major component of STIP development is public involvement. Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) engages the public involvement process as part of the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). All thirteen MPOs follow the TIP development process whereby TIP's include a four year listing, of projects identified by the MPOs. The TIP's are incorporated, as adopted by the MPOs, into the STIP. In rural areas of the state, ALDOT is responsible for cooperatively identifying needed projects, facilitating public input and involving traditionally under-served populations in transportation decision-making for the STIP. The RPOs are assisting ALDOT with the public involvement component of the STIP process.

The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) has meetings scheduled for Mobile County on May 15th at the GM&O Building in Mobile from 5:30-7:30, in Escambia County on May 21st at the Atmore City Hall from 5:30-7:30, and for Baldwin County on May 22nd at the Baldwin County Central Annex in Robertsdale from 5:30-7:30.

If anyone has any questions pertaining to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, please do not hesitate to contact us at transportation@sarpc.org

Update on the Montgomery to Mobile Passenger Rail Feasibility Study, Phase 2

Last November in Mobile, Atmore, and Montgomery respectively, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) hosted public meetings along the Montgomery to Mobile passenger rail study corridor to inform the public of an ongoing Federal Railroad Administration Passenger Rail Feasibility Study and to receive and provide feedback on whether Montgomery to Mobile is a viable passenger rail route.

"ADECA and the city of Montgomery through the city's director of planning, Robert Smith, are continuing to work with Brain Smart of AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in Atlanta on conducting the Phase 2 portion of the Birmingham-Montgomery-Mobile Intercity Passenger Rail Feasibility Study", said the ADECA Community and Economic Development Division's Statewide Initiatives Unit Chief, Kathleen Rasmussen. ADECA and the city of Montgomery are continuing to assemble a more complete and always-evolving list of stakeholders as this rail project progresses, and have established which cities to target along the Montgomery-Mobile rail route as places where public input sessions can be conducted. Those cities include Montgomery (beginning point), Mobile (end point), and Atmore (mid-point). "Further, in August 2018, AECOM provided to ADECA (1) the Ridership Forecasting Methodology Report, (2) the Draft Public Involvement Plan for ADECA's and the city of Montgomery's review, and (3) a comment and response matrix," said Rasmussen.

The study is expected to be completed by November 30, 2019, and the results of the Phase 2 study are expected to be released at that point. When AECOM, the city of Montgomery and ADECA are ready to share the findings of the study and seek input from the public, the study will be posted to ADECA's [website](#).

'An awesome moment' in Mobile as new Downtown airport opens

Updated May 1, 2019; Posted May 1, 2019
By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

As Margaret and Bill Kilgore stood inside the new terminal at the Downtown Mobile Airport Wednesday, they couldn't help but be satisfied with not having to drive an extra hour or so to Pensacola.

With the opening of the new airport terminal at the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, the family gatherings became more convenient.

"It's an awesome moment for the city," said Kilgore of Chickasaw, as she awaited her sister, Judy Lyon, who was flying in from Chicago. "This is something that has been talked about for years, and now that it's coming to fruition, I'm glad."

Indeed, talk became reality during inaugural flights into Mobile. An inbound Frontier Airways flight from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport arrived around 12:30 p.m., followed with the first departure around 2 p.m.

The inaugural flight was aboard an Airbus A320 plane that was built at Mobile's Airbus manufacturing plant, which is a short distance from the Downtown Mobile Airport within the Brookley Aeroplex industrial park. It was delivered to Frontier on March 22.

Chris Curry, the president of Mobile Airport Authority, and Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson were on the inaugural Chicago-bound flight.

Before their departure, they spoke during a brief ceremony on the airport's official opening day. A more public ceremony is scheduled to take place on May 8.

"When you think of what is happening to the Brookley Aeroplex and what will happen, this is one of the most significant things to occur in this footprint and one of the most significant things to happen in this city and region," Stimpson said.

The departure of Frontier's Flight 413 marked the first time a commercial flight took off from the Brookley complex since the 1940s.

Commercial air service has long occurred at Mobile Regional Airport in the far western edges of the city. But hampered with high fares and few choices outside the legacy airlines – Delta, American Airlines and United – city officials and the Mobile Airport Authority have pressed forward with a long-term goal of shifting the city's entire commercial service to the Brookley Aeroplex. To read the full story click [HERE](#).

Gotcha bringing bike-share back to Mobile

Updated Apr 30, 2019; Posted Apr 30, 2019
By [John Sharp | jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

Within 90 days, a new fleet of bicycles will be returning to Mobile's streets.

With approval from the City Council Tuesday, Charleston, S.C.-based Gotcha will roll out an initial minimum fleet of 200 electric pedal assist bicycles in Mobile.

"It's an exciting void we need to fill," Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson said. "I think Gotcha has the answer for that."

The bikes will be rolled out within 90 days, allowing the company to arrive into Mobile and implement a local team to oversee operations, according to Michelle Burdick, partners experience manager with The Gotcha Group.

She said the company is currently searching for "warehouse space" within the city where it can set up operations. In addition, the company plans to roll out a marketing and education efforts ahead of the bikes arriving by August.

"This gives us time to put a local team in place, to do the in-market education and marketing prior to launching the bikes," said Burdick.

Other details about the new program are in the works, including pricing and points of interest on where the bikes will be docked.

"We haven't ironed out the pricing structure," she said. "Typically, we offer a pay-as-you-go option. The user will spend \$2 to unlock the bike and then be pro-rated a per-minute charge that is 15 cents per minute. We'll have memberships or subscription styles if you use this for your daily commute. We'll have monthly and annual rates as well."

The non-exclusive agreement with Gotcha coincided with the city's official termination of Mobile's exclusive agreement it authorized last year with San Francisco-based Lime. The company deployed lime-green bikes throughout Mobile during a six-month run that ended in mid-March.

Lime, originally named LimeBike, pulled out of many individual markets earlier this year as the company [shifted its priorities from dockless bikes to e-scooters](#), which have evolved into the hottest shared mobility trend. To read the full story click [HERE](#).

Mobile: Latest Florida Street closing to last 3 weeks

Updated May 1, 2019; Posted May 1, 2019
By [Lawrence Specker | lspecker@al.com](mailto:lspecker@al.com)

A section of Florida Street undergoing work on a major drainage project will be closed for about three weeks, though business there will be accessible, according to the city of Mobile.

The project affects Florida Street between Dauphin Street and Old Shell Road. It began in October, and for a brief period the intersection of Dauphin and Florida was completely closed. Lanes were gradually reopened. Since then, at least one lane of Florida Street has generally remained passable.

Even so, the work has had an impact on businesses. Supporters have rallied around Butch Cassidy's Café, urging patrons to support it, and one Florida Street business has put up a banner criticizing the slow progress of the work.

According to a notice sent out by the city's traffic engineering department this week, the latest Florida Street closure will last "approximately three weeks." It stressed that "these businesses can be accessed at all times" despite the closure to through traffic. "Businesses can be accessed from the north or south, depending on which of the work areas are active," it said.

City Engineer Nick [Amberger told city council members in December](#) that the project was complicated to start with, and became more so thanks to discoveries made after the start of work. Workers found that sanitary sewer lines actually crossed through the storm drains that were the main subject of the work, a situation that required some additional engineering.

Amberger said the project was expected to require a year to complete, meaning it could be fall before the work is finished. But he also said the contracts provided an incentive for early completion.

The Downtown moda! Trolley Extends Route!

Beginning Monday, May 13, 2019 the Downtown moda! Trolley will extend its route to include the GM&O Building.

Moda! operates Monday thru Friday 7:00a.m.-3:00p.m. For Additional Information Call 251-344-6600 or visit the website at www.thewavetransit.com

Transportation Research

[Transportation Funding: Best Practices & Lessons Learned from the States \[July 17 ARTBA-TIAC Workshop\]](#)

by [Carolyn Kramer](#) | Mar 21, 2019

During the first two months of 2019, legislators in 37 states introduced 185 bills to boost transportation investment, more than the same period last year. On March 12, the governors of Alabama and Arkansas each signed state gas tax increases to fund transportation projects. Other funding measures are headed to state and local ballots later this year. Learn more about what's working, what's not, and what's ahead at the **6th Annual "National Workshop for State & Local Transportation Advocates,"** a signature program of ARTBA's Transportation Investment Advocacy Center™ (TIAC).

This year's Workshop will include:

- An overview of state transportation funding trends and initiatives, plus a preview of what's to come on 2019 state and local ballots;
- An update on federal transportation funding and efforts to permanently fix the revenue stream for the Highway Trust Fund;
- In-depth exploration of how states are adapting for vehicle fuel efficiency;
- The benefits and challenges of tolling;
- Campaign strategies from battleground states, and on passing legislative and ballot measures;
- Advice from state lawmakers on succeeding in your transportation funding campaign;
- And more!
-

The annual in-person meeting of the **Transportation Investment Advocates Council** will be held the afternoon of **Tuesday, July 16**. This meeting is for members of the Council, or for those interested in learning more about state transportation funding resources.

The Workshop is being held in conjunction with [ARTBA's 31st annual "Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation Conference."](#)

[Register for the Workshop.](#)

[More information & hotel reservations.](#)

[View the agenda.](#)

STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) workshop in Mobile

The Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP, the Alabama LTAP Center) has partnered with FHWA's Every Day Counts program to present a one-day, reduced-fee, STEP (Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian) workshop in Mobile. The workshop will be on Wednesday, April 3, at the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission office at 110 Beauregard Street. Peter Eun, who co-leads FHWA's STEP team, will deliver the workshop. The brochure is attached. The registration fee is \$75; this includes the 6.5 PDH workshop, course materials, and lunch on site. To register, go to <http://eng.auburn.edu/atap/events/edc5-step.html>

2018 Benchmarking Report on Biking and Walking from the League of American Bicyclists

WASHINGTON, DC – February 8, 2019: In 1958, Walt Disney imagined the future of transit was a “Magic Highway” where technology and infrastructure combined for fast, uncongested, sedentary travel by car. In 2019, with the rates of chronic diseases like obesity and diabetes rising and roads get deadlier for pedestrians and cyclists, the real solutions for better infrastructure are not found in 1950s futurism – they are found in the Bicycle Friendly Communities and States where more people are biking and walking, and fewer bicyclists and pedestrians are dying.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE 2018 BENCHMARKING REPORT ON BIKING AND WALKING »](#)

Congress first authorized federal funding to improve infrastructure projects intended for bicyclists and pedestrians in 1991. In 25 years, the United States has made significant investments in infrastructure, but a review of data and official documents by the League of American Bicyclists for Bicycling & Walking in the United States: 2018 Benchmarking Report shows that more federal and state leadership is needed to make improvements in infrastructure. While forward-thinking advocates and city leaders have made progress for bicyclist and pedestrian safety at the local level, further leadership at the federal and state level is necessary to coordinate the design and implementation of cohesive, connected, and safe environments for bicycling and walking in America.

“The way we’re investing in infrastructure isn’t working,” said Ken McLeod, policy director with the League of American Bicyclists, and lead author of the 2018 Benchmarking Report. “There is a crisis in traffic safety and we have the tools to reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians killed on our roads every year—we need leaders at the national and state levels to take action: adopt Complete Streets policies, draft and implement bike and pedestrian master plans, and build protected infrastructure.”

The 2018 Benchmarking Report is the sixth edition of the report, the first published by the League of American Bicyclists. By combining data analysis with the League’s research and data collection, the 2018 Benchmarking Report offers the most comprehensive look at national and regional statistics on bicycling and walking alongside an examination of the policies and plans, or lack thereof, to improve infrastructure for people biking and walking. In investigating the relationship between states with Complete Streets policies and/or bicycling and walking master plans, the League found that states with long-term and multiple actions on both had more growth in active transportation.

“The Benchmarking Report should be a wake-up call,” said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. “While the state and safety of bicycling and walking may seem dire, it’s not all bad news. The data shows there are places like Oregon, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC, where officials are working with advocates on the ground to create communities that are more welcoming for bicyclists and pedestrians. Local bike advocates are working to meet their communities’ needs and make biking better—it’s time for state and federal leaders to empower local efforts.”

Produced with support from groups such as AARP and Toole Design Group, the 2018 Benchmarking Report demonstrates the urgency to create bikeable and walkable communities to not only save lives on the roadway, but also encourage healthy living options. Just 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week, of moderate to vigorous physical activity for adults can help prevent eight types of cancer, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and depression. Even small amounts of physical activity each day have health benefits. Building Bicycle Friendly Communities and ones that enable even short trips to work, school, or the doctor’s office encourage healthier outcomes for everyone.

The 2018 Benchmarking Report contains state and city-level data charting the increases and declines in bicyclist and pedestrian safety, federal funding for active transportation infrastructure, policies and plans for biking and walking, and much more. A few noteworthy findings include:

- Mississippi was the deadliest state for bicyclists with the highest average fatality rate per 10k bicycle commuters from 2012-2016. Mississippi also had the lowest percent of commuters biking to work in 2016 at .1 percent of the population.
- Cities where the rate of biking to work is highest, like Portland, Oregon, and Washington, DC, have the lowest rate of bicyclist fatalities.
- 71 percent of bicyclist deaths occurred in an urban area, with 61 percent occurring on principal or minor arterial roadways, which only make up 10 percent of the national roadway system.
- 39 percent of biking trips and 35 percent of walking trips in 2017 were for social and/or recreational purposes.
- 20 percent of biking trips in 2017 were to earn a living.
- Women are underrepresented among people who bike to work, but there have been modest participation increases in recent years.
- For people with an income below \$25,000 per year, biking in an increasingly common method for taking trips.

A new initiative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Active People, Healthy NationSM](#) aims to get 27 million Americans more active by 2027. This initiative supports proven strategies to promote physical activity, including creating bikeable and walkable communities.

The nearly 400-page 2018 Benchmarking Report contains graphs, maps, and tables touching nearly every topic related to bicycling and walking in the United States. Please contact communications@bikeleague.org to ask about specific cities or states, speak to an expert, or learn more about how your state and community can become more bicycle friendly.

Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.